

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. C. Kalafut on 7/3/08.

2. The application has been amended as follows: The claims are amended as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving, at a first node of a selected plurality of nodes forming a communication path between a source and a destination, a first signal from the source, wherein the first signal is part of a first signal stream comprising a first plurality of signals which are received at a rate of one signal per time interval;
interleaving the first signal and a second signal, wherein the second signal is part of a second signal stream comprising a second plurality of signals;
identifying, based at least in part on a lowest communication rate ~~between along the communication path, first node and a second node,~~ a second time interval, wherein the second time interval occurs after receipt of the first signal;
and
transmitting the first signal and the second signal from the first node to ~~a~~ the second node of the communication path without a buffering delay, wherein the first signal and the second signal are is transmitted during the second time interval.

3. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a first node and a second node along a communication path
between a source and a destination, wherein the first node is configured to

receive a first signal from the source, wherein the first signal is part of a first signal stream comprising a first plurality of signals which are received at a rate of one signal per time interval; and

a connection manager configured to

interleave the first signal and a second signal, wherein the second signal is part of a second signal stream comprising a second plurality of signals; and

identify, based at least in part on a lowest communication rate along the communication path ~~between the first node and the second node~~, a second time interval, wherein the second time interval occurs after receipt of the first signal,

wherein the first node is further configured to transmit the first signal and the second signal to the second node during the second time interval and without a buffering delay.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, further comprising a first unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit connection and a second unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit connection, wherein the first unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit connection and the second unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit connection are used to form the communication path.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein the connection manager is further configured to time multiplex the first signal and the second signal. ~~with one or more additional signals to form a multiplexed signal, and further wherein the multiplexed signal is transmitted from the first node to the second node during the second time interval.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a first Internet connected node and a second Internet connected node, wherein the first Internet connected node is configured to receive a first signal from a source, and further wherein the first signal is part of a first signal stream comprising a first plurality of signals which are received by the first Internet connected node at a rate of one signal per time interval; and

a connection manager configured to:

interleave the first signal and a second signal, wherein the second signal is part of a second signal stream comprising a second plurality of signals;

identify a communication path between the source and a destination, wherein the communication path includes the first Internet connected node and the second Internet connected node; and

identify, based at least in part on a lowest communication rate along the communication path, a second time interval which occurs after receipt of the first signal, wherein the first Internet connected node is configured to transmit the first signal and the second signal to the second Internet connected node during the second time interval without a route calculation delay, and further wherein the second Internet connected node is configured to transmit the first signal and the second signal to a third Internet connected node along the communication path during the second time interval and without the route calculation delay.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the first Internet connected node includes a first unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit connection and

the second Internet connected node includes a second unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit connection.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the first signal and the second signal are is transmitted by the first Internet connected node and the second Internet connected node without a buffering delay.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the connection manager is further configured to time ~~said signal further comprises multiplexed data from a second source~~ the first signal and the second signal.

Claim 10 has been canceled.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication path includes a first unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit connection and a second unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit connection.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein said connection manager is further configured to time ~~signal further comprises multiplexed data from a second source~~ the first signal and the second signal.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AJIT G. PATEL whose telephone number is 571-272-3140. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY- FRIDAY.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris TO can be reached on 571-272-7629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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